



2008 OHIO ELECTION CALENDAR

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE JENNIFER BRUNNER

2007

R.C. Reference

Nov. 5	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to the Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Dec. 20 deadline for filing local liquor option petitions)	4301.33, 4305.14
*Nov. 26	Last day for minor political parties to file petitions to participate in the March 2008 primary election (100 days before primary election)	SOS Dir. 2007-09
Dec. 5	Applications for absentee ballots for the March 2008 primary election may be accepted (90 days before primary election)	3509.03, 3511.02
	Constitutional amendments proposed by a joint resolution of the General Assembly to be filed with the secretary of state by this date (90 days before primary election)	O. Const. XVI, §1; 3501.02
	Declaration of intent to change political party affiliation must be filed by 4 p.m. (30 days before filing deadline for declaration of candidacy)	3513.191(C)(1)(a)
Dec. 20	Local questions and issues for primary election, including local liquor option petitions , must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before primary election)	731.28,29,4301.331, .332, .333,.334, 4305.14
Dec. 27	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (68 days before primary election)	3513.05
Dec. 28	Initiated state statutes proposed by initiative petition must be filed with the secretary of state by this date (10 days before first session of general assembly in 2008)	O. Const. II, §1a and §1b, 3501.02
Dec. 31	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before primary election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14

2008

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2008 may be accepted (first day of the year)	3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 2	Write-in candidates for the primary must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (62 days before primary election)	3513.041
Jan. 4	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (60 days before primary election)	3513.05
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for the instruction of polling place officials (60 days before primary election)	3501.27
Jan. 6	General election ballots from 2007, except for those for federal office, may be discarded unless a court or the secretary of state orders that the ballots be preserved for a longer period of time (61 days after general election)	3505.31. 42 USC 1974
Jan. 7	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (57 days before primary election)	3513.041
Jan. 11	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (53 days before primary election)	3513.05
*Jan. 14	Candidates, except presidential primary candidates, may withdraw (51 days before primary election)	3513.30(B)
Jan. 15	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (49 days before primary election)	3513.05
Jan. 19	Form of official ballots must be certified by the secretary of state to boards of elections (45 days before primary election)	3513.05
	Board of elections of the most populous county of a multicounty subdivision must certify names of candidates to other boards of elections (45 days before primary election)	3513.05
Jan. 22	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for registration (six weeks before primary election)	3503.12
*Feb. 4	Deadline for voter registration for primary election (30 days before primary election)	3503.19
	Presidential primary candidates may withdraw by 4 p.m. (30 days before the primary election)	3513.30(C)
Feb. 8	Primary Election voter absentee ballots must be ready (25 days before primary election)	3509.01, 3511.04
Feb. 13	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (20 days before primary election)	3503.24
	Committees advocating or opposing issues must file by 4 pm. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers. (20 before primary election)	3505.21
*Feb. 19	Last day for state political parties to file with the secretary of state the adopted rules affecting issuance of certificates of elections to candidates for delegate or alternate to their respective national conventions (15 days before the primary election)	3513.151(E)
Feb. 19	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before primary election)	3503.23
Feb. 22	Deadline for political parties, groups of five or more candidates and issue committees to file observer appointments (11 days before primary election)	3505.21
Feb. 23	Boards of elections must provide public notice of election (10 days before primary election)	3501.03
*Feb. 25	Certificate to fill vacancy on a ballot caused by the death of candidate whose name is on the primary ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before primary election)	3513.17, .30
Feb. 28	Certificate to fill vacancy on a ballot caused by the death of candidate whose name is on the primary ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before primary election)	3513.17, .30
March 1	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for the primary election must be received by the board of elections by noon (three days before primary election)	3509.03, .031, .04, .05, .08, 3511.02, .04
March 3	Nominating petitions of independent candidates other than president and vice president, for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (one day before primary election)	1901.07, 3513.257, .261, 262



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March 3	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (one day before primary election)	3505.21
	Absentee ballots may be requested and voted in person at boards of elections until the close of regular business hours (one day before primary election)	3509.03, 3511.10
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before primary election)	3509.031
March 4	Primary Election Day - polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
	Absentee ballots, other than those of overseas and armed service voters , must be received by boards of elections by 7:30 p.m.	3509.05, 3511.11
	Voter or voter's minor child hospitalized because of medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	3509.08
March 24	Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed on or before the close of polls on March 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (20 days after primary election)	3509.05, 3511.11
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on March 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (20 days after primary election)	3511.11
March 25	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (21 days after primary election)	3505.32
March 29	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (25 days after primary election)	3505.32
April 4	Boards of elections must complete the official canvass of ballots no later than this date (31 days after primary election)	3505.32
April 18	The secretary of state and board of elections of the most populous county of a multicounty district must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections (end of 6 th week after primary election)	3513.262
May 4	Primary election ballots, except for those for federal office, may be discarded unless a court or the secretary of state orders that the ballots be preserved for a longer period of time (61 days after primary election)	3505.31
May 16	Boards of elections must certify independent candidates' petitions (end of 10 th week after primary election)	3513.262
May 22	Local questions and issues for August 5 special elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before special election)	3501.01, .02
May 30	Protest against independent candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (end of 12 th week after special election)	3513.262
June 24	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications and methods for registration (six weeks before special election)	3503.12

Please note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Please contact your county board of elections for such information.

*** In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the secretary of state and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the offices are open. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.**

Recounts and Election Contests

An application for a recount must be filed no later than five days after the official results are declared	3515.02
A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared, or within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	3515.09

Campaign Finance Reports - Primary Election

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, please see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2008

Jan. 20	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports	3517.11
Jan. 31	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through December 31, 2007	3517.10
Feb. 11	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Feb. 21	Pre-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through February 13 (20 days before the election)	3517.10
April 1	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
April 11	Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through April 4 (the seventh day before the report is filed)	3517.10



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2008

R.C. Reference

*July 7	Deadline for voter registration for the August 5 special election (30 days before special election).....	3503.19
	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to the Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Aug. 21 deadline for filing petitions)	4301.33, 4305.14
July 26	Boards of elections must provide public notice of election (10 days before special election)	3501.03
Aug. 2	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for the August 5 special election must be received by noon (three days before special election)	3509.03, 3511.02
Aug. 4	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until their close of business hours (one day before special election)	3509.03, 3511.10
Aug. 5	Special elections may be held.....	3501.01
Aug. 6	Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed by this date (90 days before general election)	O. Const. II, §1a and §1b ; 3501.02
	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with the secretary of state by this date (90 days before general election)	O. Const. XVI, §1; 3501.02
*Aug. 18	Last day to file petitions to organize a minor political party for presidential candidates (80 days before general election)	SOS Dir. 2007-09
Aug. 20	A political party or independent candidate's nominating committee must certify the name of a person to fill a vacancy caused by the withdrawal of a candidate by 4 p.m. (76 days before general election)	3513.31
Aug. 21	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before general election)	3513.251, .253, .254, .255, .261
	Nominating petitions of joint independent candidates for president/vice president must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before general election)	3513.257
	Local questions and issues for the general election, including local liquor option petitions, must be certified to or filed with the boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before general election)	731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 28	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (68 days before general election)	3513.263
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (68 days before general election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14
*Sep. 2	Protests against candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races must be filed by this date (64 days before general election)	3513.263
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before general election)	4301.33, .331, 4305.14
Sep. 3	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (62 days before general election)	3513.041
Sep. 5	Form of official ballots must be certified by the secretary of state to boards of elections (60 days before general election)	3505.01
	Board of elections of the most populous county of a multicounty subdivision must certify the names of all candidates for the general election ballot to other boards of elections (60 days before general election)	3505.01
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for the instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before general election)	3501.27
Sep. 8	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (57 days before general election)	3513.041
Sep. 23	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for registration (six weeks before general election)	3503.12
Sep. 30	General election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before general election)	3509.01, 3511.04
*Oct. 6	Deadline for voter registration for general election (30 days before general election)	3503.19
Oct. 15	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (20 days before general election)	3503.24
Oct. 21	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration list (14 days before general election)	3503.23
Oct. 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of five or more candidates, and issue committees to file observer appointments (11 days before general election)	3505.21
Oct. 25	Boards of elections must provide public notice of election (10 days before general election)	3501.03
*Oct. 27	Certificate to fill a vacancy on the ballot caused by the death of candidate nominated at the primary election whose name is on the general ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before general election)	3513.31
Oct. 30	Certificate to fill a vacancy on the ballot caused by the death of an independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to October 25 (10 days before the election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before general election)	3513.31
	Certificate to fill a vacancy on the ballot caused by the death of a candidate nominated at the primary election whose name is on the general ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before general election)	3513.31
Nov. 1	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before general election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Nov. 3	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until the close of their business hours (day before general election)	3509.03
	Amendments to witness and challenger appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before general election)	3505.21
	Active duty militia voters may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before general election)	3509.031



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Nov. 4	General Election Day -polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
	Absentee ballots, other than those of out-of-country voters, must be received by the boards of elections by 7:30 p.m.	3509.05, 3511.11
	Voter or voter's minor child hospitalized because of medical emergency, voter may apply for absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	3509.08
Nov. 14	Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed before the close of the polls on November 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election)	3509.05
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before the close of the polls on November 4 and must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election)	3511.11
Nov. 15	Boards of elections may begin the official canvass of ballots (11 days after general election)	3505.32
Nov. 19	Boards of elections must begin the official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after general election)	3505.32
Nov. 20	Local questions and issues for the February 3, 2009 special elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before special election)	3501.01, .02
Nov. 25	Boards of elections must complete the official canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after general election)	3505.32

2009

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2009 may be accepted (first day of the year).....	3509.03, 3511.01
Jan. 4	General election ballots from 2008, except for those for federal office, may be discarded unless a court or the secretary of state orders that the ballots be preserved for a longer period of time (61 days after general election)	3505.31

Please note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Please contact your county board of elections for such information.

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Recounts and Election Contests

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A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared, or within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	3515.09

Campaign Finance Reports - General Elections

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, please see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2008

July 21	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file semiannual campaign finance reports	3517.10
July 31	Semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. of the last business day of July detailing contributions and expenditures through June 30, 2008	3517.10
Oct. 13	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Oct. 23	Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through October 15 (20 days before the election)	3517.10
Dec. 2	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
Dec. 12	Post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through December 5 (the seventh day before the report is filed).....	3517.10

2009

Jan. 21	The secretary of state and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports.....	3517.11
Jan. 30	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through December 31, 2008.....	3517.10